

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5482

FOR EUR/RPM

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: SITE FO FIRST FOLLOW-UP MEETING

1. WHEN MALTESE OBJECTIONS TO FOLLOW-UP TEXT ARE REMOVED THE ONLY REMAINING BASKET IV QUESTION INVOLVES CHOICE OF VENUE OF FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING AND OF FIRST MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1977. WE EXPECT THAT PRESSURE WILL NOW INCREASE QUICKLY TO REACH THIS DECISION.
2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE SO FAR BEEN NO FORMAL DISCUSSIONS THIS QUESTION TACIT UNDERSTANDING HAS EMERGED THAT BOTH PREPARATORY MEETING AND MEETING OF REPS OF MFA'S SHOULD BE HELD IN SAME CAPITAL FOR LOGISTIC REASONS.
3. ONLY FOUR CITIES ARE CURRENTLY BEING MENTIONED IN CORRIDORS. BELGRADE WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE FRG, AND PERHAPS FRENCH AND UK SUPPORT, SEEMS FOR PRESENT TO BE FRONT RUNNER. HOWEVER, FINNS ARE DISCREETLY PUSHING HELSINKI ON GROUNDS THAT THEY HAVE EARNED IT AND THAT THEIR LAST TWO VENTURES AS CSCE HOSTS WERE MARRED BY UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS. THE AUSTRIANS ARE ALSO QUIETLY PROMOTING VIENNA, AND THE SWEDES HAVE SHOWN SOME SIGNS OF OFFERING STOCKHOLM.

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4. COMMENT AND REQUESTED ACTION: ALTHOUGH BELGRADE IS LEADING CANDIDATE FOR PRESENT, THE ISSUE IS FAR FROM SETTLED, SINCE THERE ARE DELEGATIONS WHO PREFER TO AVOID HOLDING FIRST FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN A COMMUNIST SETTING. HELSINKI HAS HANDICAP THAT IT HAS ALREADY HAD TWO TURNS. THIS WOULD NOT BE GOOD PRECEDENT IN VIEW OF FOLLOW-UP DOCUMENT'S DECLARATION THAT VENUE OF MEETINGS WILL BE BY ROTATION. VIENNA HAS NEITHER OF THE ABOVE DISADVANTAGES. ON THE OTHER HAND THE AUSTRIAN DEL HAS CONTRIBUTED EXTRAORDINARILY LITTLE TO CSCE PROCESS OVER LAST TWO YEARS, AND MAY NOT, THEREFORE, BEEN SEEN AS MERITING THE REWARD OF BEING SITE OF FIRST FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS. BEST CHOICE OF CAPITALS CURRENTLY IN THE RUNNING MIGHT THEREFORE BE STOCKHOLM, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT POSES NO ATMOSPHERIC OR LOGISTIC PROBLEMS, AND BECAUSE SWEDES HAVE PLAYED CONSISTENTLY CONSTRUCTIVE CSCE ROLE, MOST RECENTLY IN THEIR USEFUL CONCILIATORY EFFORT ON FOLLOW-UP TEXT.

5. EVEN SO, DELEGATION HAS NO STRONG PREFERENCES FROM STRICTLY US VIEWPOINT AND BELIEVES WE SHOULD AGREE TO WHATEVER CAPITAL ULTIMATELY GAINS MOST SUPPORT. SINCE ISSUE LIKELY TO COME UP VERY SHORTLY, DELEGATION REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS NOT LATER THAN OPENING OF BUSINESS, JULY 15. ABRAMS

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